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CURRENT LITERATURE

BOOK REVIEWS

Parasitic fungi

A book treating of the fungi which cause plant diseases, which limits itself to the diseases already known in the United States and to those which, known elsewhere, seem likely to invade this country, ought to be received gratefully by the American student of plant pathology. In his new book, STEVENS[1] gives keys and descriptions of the fungi which cause plant diseases and also of such saprophytic forms as are obviously closely related to the parasitic forms. But he does more than give a taxonomic account of the parasitic forms, since he presents the results of cytological work, usually with the original figures, in all those groups in which extensive cytological studies have appeared. As would be expected, he also goes into details of culture methods in such groups as the rusts, where an elaborate method of procedure has been evolved by specialists.

Besides the Introduction, which treats of the nature of fungi and their relation to other thallophytes, the book comprises three divisions. The first division treats of Myxomycetes, the second of Schizomycetes. There follows a bibliography of 210 titles relating to the Introduction, Myxomycetes, and Schizomycetes. The third division of the book, which treats of Eumycetes, is divided into a portion on Phycomycetes with a bibliography of 149 titles, one on Ascomycetes with 344 references, one on Basidiomycetes with 345 references, while the fourth portion on Fungi Imperfecti is followed by a list of 459 references. In addition, there are 64 books and 12 periodicals which are listed as "some of the most useful." In connection with so extensive a bibliography it is to be lamented that citations are not made in full so as to include the titles of papers. Such a list as STEVENS publishes, in which appears an author's name, a volume reference (abbreviated as much as possible), a first page, and a date, might be quite satisfactory had we reached the day of perfect proofreading, when each word and figure would stand as it should, and it would not be necessary to turn back to the index of the volume indicated to see whether it was merely the page reference that was wrong or whether the volume number was at fault. Nor can we say that up to this moment we have found the proofreading of these bibliographies imperfect, but a number of very obvious slips in the text would indicate that this might be possible. Thus, on page 72, *Cladochytrium*, after being listed in the key under *intracellular* forms, is described as a genus containing about ten *intercellular* parasites; and on page

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[1] STEVENS, F. L., The fungi which cause plant diseases. 8vo. pp. viii+754. *figs. 449.* New York: The Macmillan Co. 1913. $4.00.

75, it is said of *Dictyuchus:* "This genus of the Saprolegniaceae contains the only parasite genus in the first two families." Turning then to the end of the book, we find sprodochium for sporodochium on page 664, "synnema or corymium" for *coremium* on page 565, while *synema* appears on page 694 of the glossary, and on page 443 Merasmieae appears instead of Marasmieae.

In several points STEVENS helps to overcome inconsistencies which are common in works on parasitic fungi. Striking among these is his listing of the three groups of Fungi Imperfecti (the group which is characterized chiefly by the imperfection of our knowledge of them) in the three orders Sphaeropsidales, Melanconiales, and Moniliales, rather than Sphaeropsidales, Melanconiales, and Hyphomycetes. In this connection it is unfortunate that he should speak of the types of *fructification* displayed by Fungi Imperfecti as pycnidia, acervuli, and hyphae, in spite of the fact that the definition of hypha in the glossary is "the thread-like *vegetative* part of a fungus."

Altogether this book, with its concise, clear keys of parasitic fungi, which aims to give at least one illustration as well as description of each genus of economic importance in the United States, and which has a comprehensive bibliography, must prove a stimulus to the student of plant pathology.—WANDA M. PFEIFFER.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS

Current taxonomic literature.—H. ANDRES (Verhandl. Bot. Ver. Prov. Brandbg. **54**:218–227. 1913) has published two species of *Pyrola,* one being from the state of Washington, and (Oesterreich. Bot. Zeitschr. **63**:68–75. 1913) three species are added from the Pacific Coast. The same author (Allg. Bot. Zeitschr. **19**:81–86. 1913) in a closing article on the Pyrolaceae includes the description of a new species (*P. cordata*) from Ontario, Canada.—H. H. BARTLETT (Rhodora **15**:81–85. 1913) in continuation of systematic studies on *Oenothera* has published jointly with G. F. ATKINSON two new species of this genus from New York.—O. BECCARI (Webbia **4**:143–240. 1913) under the title "Contributi alla conoscenza delle Palme" has published the results of further studies of the palms, describes a new genus (*Jubaeopsis*) from Central Africa, and gives a revision of the genus *Pritchardia* which includes several new species from the Hawaiian Islands.—G. BITTER (Rep. Sp. Nov. **12**:49–90, 136–162. *pls. 1, 2.* 1913) has published upward of 50 new species and several varieties of *Solanum* mostly from America.—S. F. BLAKE (Rhodora **15**:86–88. 1913) records two new forms of *Ophioglossum vulgatum* from eastern North America, and (*ibid.* 153–168) under the title of "Six weeks' botanizing in Vermont. I. Notes on the plants of the Burlington region" presents the results of a study of the plants collected in the Champlain Valley of Vermont in 1911, adding several species not hitherto recorded from the Burlington region and describes a number of new varieties and forms.—C. BÖRNER (Abh. Nat. Ver. Bremen **21**:245–282. 1913) under the title "Botanisch-systematische Notizen" has